

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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FOR EUR/CE

3.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PGOV, PFOR, OVIP, WB, US (LUEDER, WOLFGANG)

1. NEW MAYOR OF BERLIN, WOLFGANG LUEDER, PLANS TO VISIT US FROM SEPTEMBER 25 TO OCTOBER 3. LUEDER WAS ELECTED TO POSITION OF MAYOR ON JULY 23 (USBERLIN 1534); HE CONTINUES TO HOLD POSITION OF SENATOR FOR ECONOMICS. HE IS ALSO CHAIRMAN OF BERLIN FDP.

2. ORIGINAL PURPOSE OF LUEDER'S VISIT TO US WAS TO ATTEND FUNCTION OF GERMAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN NEW YORK. WHILE IN NEW YORK, SEPTEMBER 25-29, LUEDER WILL HAVE DISCUSSION WITH GERMAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE, ATTEND RECEPTION THAT CHAMBER GIVING FOR ITS MEMBERSHIP, MEET WITH FRG UN PERMREP VON WECHMAR, CALL ON MAYOR BEAME, AND MEET WITH OFFICIALS OF PANAM. GERMAN-AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE CONTACTS ALREADY ARRANGED DIRECTLY; CALLS ON FRG PERM REP AND MAYOR BEAME BEING ARRANGED THROUGH GERMAN CONGEN; PAN AM CONTACTS BEING ARRANGED BY PAN AM BERLIN.

3. AFTERNOON OF SEPTEMBER 29, LUEDER WILL TRAVEL TO WASHINGTON, PROBABLY BY AMTRACK METROLINER. HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH DEPARTMENT OFFICIALS ON SEPTEMBER 30.

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HE WILL WANT TO TALK PRIMARILY ABOUT BERLIN CIVIL AVIATION.

LUEDER WOULD ALSO LIKE OPPORTUNITY PAY COURTESY CALL ON RANKING DEPARTMENT OFFICIAL. FOLLOWING MEETINGS AT STATE, HE WOULD LIKE TO MEET WITH COMMERCE OFFICIALS TO DISCUSS, INTER ALIA, INVESTMENT OPPORTUNITIES IN BERLIN. WHILE IN WASHINGTON, MAYOR LUEDER WOULD ALSO WELCOME CHANCE TO CALL ON MAYOR WASHINGTON. (IT WAS SUGGESTED TO HIM THAT THIS MIGHT BE ARRANGED THROUGH GERMAN EMBASSY.)

4. LUEDER WILL BE ACCOMPANIED BY TWO MEMBERS OF HIS STAFF, HERREN FUEGER AND VOLLMER, AND ALSO PERHAPS BY ONE OR TWO MEMBERS OF BERLIN PRESS.

5. AS NOTED IN USBERLIN 1534, LUEDER WON ELECTION AS MAYOR QUITE HANDILY DESPITE PRIOR INDICATIONS THAT SOME SPD MEMBERS OF HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES WOULD VOTE AGAINST HIM. ELECTION SUCCESS HAS BEEN ATTRIBUTED TO FACT THAT IN FIFTEEN MONTHS AS ECONOMICS SENATOR, LUEDER HAS IMPRESSED HIS COALITION COLLEAGUES AS LOW-KEY BUT CAPABLE ADMINISTRATOR WHO HAS ABILITY TO RECRUIT OUTSTANDING PEOPLE AND UTILIZE THEM EFFECTIVELY. WHEN ELECTED SENATOR, HE WAS VIEWED WITH CONSIDERABLE SUSPICION BY BERLIN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE WHO CONSIDERED HIM "LEFT WING FDP" ALTHOUGH CAPABLE OF LEARNING. IN RECENT MONTHS, HOWEVER, CHAMBER HOSTILITY HAS DIMINISHED. LUEDER IS EXTREMELY HARD WORKER WHO PUTS IN LONG HOURS AND TAKES FEW VACATIONS (A RARITY AMONG BERLIN POLITICIANS AND OFFICIALS). SOME OF HIS PUBLIC STATEMENTS ON ECONOMIC ISSUES HAVE BEEN UNPOPULAR BUT IN VIEW OF NEUTRAL OBSERVERS CLOSE TO THE MARK. HIS MARRIAGE HAS HAD ITS TROUBLES LATELY, PERHAPS DUE TO HIS WORKING HABITS, BUT HIS SEPARATED WIFE CONTINUES TO ATTEND FUNCTIONS WITH HIM.

6. BELIEVE LUEDER VISIT WILL PROVE MUTUALLY USEFUL. MISSION WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING IF THERE ANY PROBLEM WITH RESPECT TO TIMING OF VISIT TO WASHINGTON. GEORGE

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